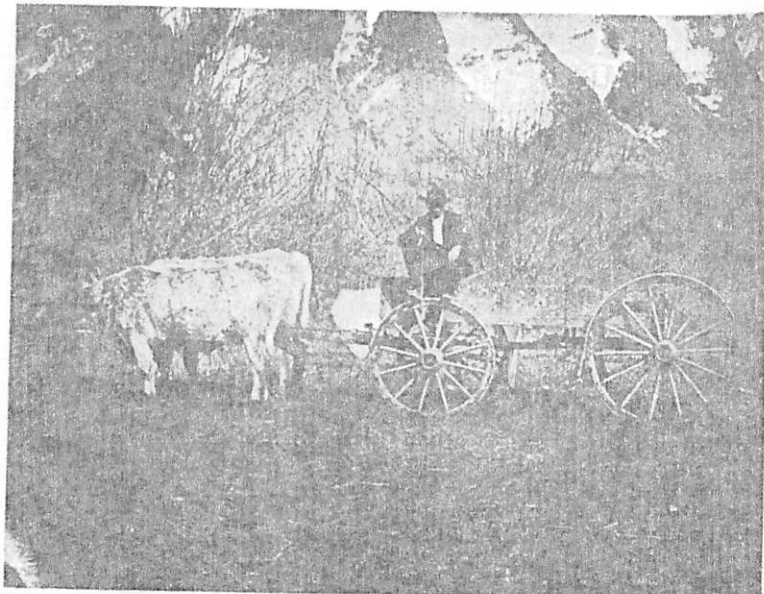


parents were living at that time. However, on a picture of John Mills Ashton taken in 1876 it states he was born in Nauvoo, Illinois.



I have in my possession a photograph of John Mills Ashton showing him driving an oxen-pulled wagon bed which was the kind used to haul lumber. The picture is dated Provo City 1876. A note on the picture says, "He and his team worked on the St. George Temple". —Ruth Burrell Richardson

In the spring of 1850 his grandfather, John Mills, his mother's father and after whom he was named, had left his family at Council Bluffs and had gone on ahead to make a home for his family at the saints' gathering place in Utah. John Mills was a lumber sawmill worker. He hoped to establish a sawmill in Utah and then his family was to make the long journey west. So it was on July 27, 1851, that this 11-month-old baby started on his way across the plains to Utah with his grandmother, Jane Sanford Mills, his aunt, Barbara Belinda Mills, age 15, and his uncle Martin Walderfin Mills, age 20. The four traveled with the Morris Phelps Company and arrived at the Lehi Utah Valley in October of the same year.

The grandparents moved to Provo about 1853. About 1857 John Mills built a sawmill one and a half miles away up on the bench where the family lived until 1868 when the sawmill was sold. John Ashton lived with his grandparents all this time. He must have been a great help as by that time his young aunt and uncle had married and moved away.